

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01050 111650Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W
-----120613Z 019836 /10

R 111537Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9106
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1050

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM
SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF IRA PRISONERS IN IRISH PRISONS

1. IRISH JUSTICE MINISTER COONEY HAS REJECTED A REQUEST BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOR AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS IN PORTLAOISE PRISON WHERE THE BULK OF THE CONVICTED IRA TERRORISTS ARE HELD. HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN THE IRISH PARLIAMENT MAY 10, AND STATED THAT IT APPEARED THAT AMNESTY HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY PROPAGANDA DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY ASSOCIATES OF THE PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY A DOCUMENT ATTRIBUTED TO A PRIEST, REV. P.O DULL. COONEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE IRISH HIGH COURT WERE TO MAKE AN ORDER THAT AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE HELD, THAT ORDER WOULD BE OBEYED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE LATTER STATEMENT APPARENTLY REFERS TO A CASE PENDING BEFORE THE HIGH COURT IN WHICH AN APPELLANT CLAIMS "UNLAWFUL DETAINMENT" UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE IRISH CONSTITUTION, AND THE HIGH COURT JUSTICE IS CONSIDERING WHETHER AN "INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS" IS WARRANTED.

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3. COMMENT: A HIGH GOVERNMENT SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE GOI HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR THE PRISONERS, INCLUDING THE RECENT HUNGER STRIKERS, WITHIN IRELAND AND ALSO SURPRISED AT THE VERY STRONG SYMPATHY COMING FROM WITHOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AMNESTY LETTER AND MANY LETTERS/CALLS

ETC. FROM AS FAR AWAY AS AUSTRALIA. IN ORDER TO
PLEASE BOTH GROUPS THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE TRYING
A NEAT SOLUTION, I.E., MAINTAIN ITS TOUGH LAW-AND-ORDER
APPROACH VIS-A-VIS THE IRA BUT GRACEFULLY ACCEDE TO
A COURT INQUIRY. THE SOLUTION HAS BEEN USEFUL
BEFORE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTRACEPTION ISSUE. RENDAHL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS WELFARE, INVESTIGATIONS, PENAL INSTITUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DUBLIN01050
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770571/aaaacjkk.tel
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